

Applicant: Wilhelmsen et al.
Application No.: 10/800,562

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 4, 8, 12, 15, and 16, without prejudice or disclaimer, and add new claims 23-35. A complete listing of the claims of this application follows.

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A universal bracket for securing between stud partitions, timberwork or the like for the installation of equipment, fixtures and fittings, plasterboard and similar elements or materials, the universal bracket comprising:

two elongate elements having substantially the same profile, made of a sheet material in such manner that each of said elements has a relatively broad central part which is defined by longitudinally flanged edge portions, and wherein at the opposite free ends of said respective elements there is provided an end piece, the said two elements being dimensioned and adapted so that they fit into each other and can be displaced in the longitudinal direction, thus providing a telescopically adjustable "beam" that is torsion-proof and can readily be adapted to the width between wooden or steel studs, steel frames or timberwork and can easily be fastened thereto by fasteners provided in the said end pieces, wherein the universal bracket is adapted to support fixtures and fittings that are attached to a

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plasterboard positioned thereover at any location provided that connecting fasteners are engaged with at least one of the two elongate elements.

Claim 2 (Original): A bracket according to claim 1, wherein the flanging of said edge portions is provided in that the respective central parts of said sheet material are bent inwards at the edge areas as a first outward-projecting portion that forms a substantial right angle with the surface plane of said central parts, which first portion passes into a second portion that is substantially parallel to the said surface plane.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): A bracket according to claim 1, wherein said end piece is provided with a suitably dimensioned upward bend of said sheet material of said elements.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): A bracket according to claim 1, wherein said end pieces and/or said central parts of the elements there are provided with relatively small holes for fastening means, for example, screws.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): A bracket according to claim 1, wherein said end pieces and/or said central parts of the elements are provided with holes or cut-

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outs adapted to receive preferably flexible electrical tubing, optionally for connections/feedthroughs etc.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): A bracket according to claim 1, wherein said bracket is so dimensioned that it has a longitudinal displacement from about 480 mm to about 600 mm.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): A bracket according to claim 1, wherein the said elements have a different thickness.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): A bracket according to claim 1, wherein the said elements have a different length.

Claim 9 (Original): A bracket according to claim 8, wherein the longest of said elements has a thickness of about 0.7 mm, and the shortest of said elements a thickness of about 0.9 mm.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): A bracket according to claim 1, wherein said sheet material is galvanised steel or a material with similar properties.

Claim 11 (New): A plasterboard support system, comprising:

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two stud partitions; plasterboard supported by the two stud partitions, the plasterboard providing an inwardly facing surface; a universal bracket mounted between the two stud partitions and positioned adjacent to the plasterboard on a surface opposite from the inwardly facing surface, the universal bracket comprises: two elongate elements having substantially the same profile, made of a sheet material in such manner that each of said elements has a relatively broad central part which is defined by longitudinally flanged edge portions, and wherein at the opposite free ends of said respective elements there is provided an end piece, the said two elements being dimensioned and adapted so that they fit into each other and can be displaced in the longitudinal direction, thus providing a telescopically adjustable beam that is torsion-proof and can readily be adapted to the width between the two vertical studs to be affixed thereto; wherein the universal bracket is adapted to support a fixture that are attached to the plasterboard positioned thereover at any location provided that connecting fasteners used to secure the fixture are positioned through the plasterboard and engaged with at least one of the two elongate elements.